

Andrew Jackson to James Monroe, April 15, 1820, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO PRESIDENT MONROE.¹

1 Copy.

Private

Nashville, April 15, 1820.

D'r Sir. By yesterdays mail I received your Message of the 27th of March to the house of representatives² on the Subject of our relations with Spain, from which, and from the information of the Sentiments that pervades a majority of that branch of the Government, I draw the conclusion that no act of Congress will be passed authorizing the occupation of Florida the present Session of Congress, and that it is Strongly calculated upon, that our affairs with that nation will be amicably adjusted by further negotiation or explanation and that peace and friendship will be maintained with that nation. If this really [is] the present prospect and can be relied on, my wishes for retirement can be gratified without any injury to my Country or censure that can attach to me, there being prospects of a long continued, and uninterrupted peace. I therefore hope on the rise of Congress with out passing a law authorizing you to take possession of Florida, You will have the Goodness to Signify to me that you will permit me to retire, on which Signification I will forward to you my resignation. Having always assured you I would not resign so long as my Services might be beneficial to my country, or cloud of War hover over it—nor until I could obtain your free consent for that retirement, occasion me now to address you. You have long been acquainted with my desire to retire to private life, upon the prospects of permanent peace—these prospects

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being now in view, and which I hope may be realized, induced me to ask for your consent that I may retire, and that you will at as early a day as is convenient to you signify the Same to me, that on the receipt of yours containing that permission, I may transmit to you my resignation,³

2 To Senate and House. Richardson, *Messages and Papers*, II. 69.

3 At the request of the President, Jackson consented to withhold his resignation, pending the clearing up of the situation in Florida.

Present Mrs. J and my respects to your Lady and family, and accept for Your Self our best wishes for your health, prosperity and happiness, and believe me to be with due respect,
Your most Obt. Servt.